

# **Trial Courts**

## **Caseload Reports and Case Type Descriptions**

On a quarterly basis, the trial courts of the state provide to the Division of State Court Administration caseload information by filing a standard form entitled "Quarterly Case Status Report." This report contains information on the cases filed, disposed, and pending at the beginning and ending of the reporting period. This information is categorized by type of case based on a classification which corresponds to a statewide case numbering system found in Admin. R. 8. The reports also show the method of disposition for categories established by the Division of State Court Administration. Currently, criminal cases are divided into seven categories, juvenile cases into six categories, civil cases into seven categories, and probate/adoption into five categories. Quarterly Case Status Reports also indicate the number of cases heard by a judge pro tempore, the number of special judge service days, the number of cases referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the number of cases in which Pauper Counsel was appointed. Case type designations and categories are as follows:

### ***Criminal Case Types***

If a defendant is charged with several offenses, the case is counted only one time under the most serious charge. Examples of crimes provided in each category are generalizations. Mitigating and aggravating factors may move a particular crime into a different classification. Those same factors may also increase or decrease the general sentencing provided by statute.

1. CF - Criminal Felony: This category includes all cases filed as Murder, Class A, B, C felonies. Examples of crimes in this category include kidnapping (Class A), arson involving bodily injury (Class A), armed robbery (Class B), aggravated battery (Class B), robbery (Class C), and reckless homicide (Class C). General sentencing guidelines provided by statute (IC 35-50-2-1, et. seq.) provide for 55 years for Murder, 30 years for Class A felonies, 10 years for Class B felonies, and 4 years for Class C felonies.
2. DF - Class D Felony: In 1995 Courts began counting and reporting Class D felonies separately. Examples of crimes in this category include theft, computer tampering, and fraud. General sentencing guidelines provided by statute (IC 35-50-2-7) provide for 1½ years for crimes in this category.
3. CM - Criminal Misdemeanor: All criminal cases which are filed as misdemeanors. Examples of cases in this category are criminal trespass and battery. Sentencing guidelines provided by statute (IC 35-50-3-2, et. seq.) provide for sentences between 60 days and 1 year.
4. PC - Post-Conviction Petition: All petitions for post-conviction relief filed under P.C. Rule 1.
5. MC - Miscellaneous Criminal: Criminal matters which are not easily classified in one of the preceding categories.

6. IF - Infractions: Despite technically being non-criminal in nature, for the purposes of this report infractions are reported in the criminal category. Infractions are most typically traffic related offenses.
7. OV/OE - Ordinance Violations: These cases represent violations of local ordinances.

### ***Juvenile Case Types***

8. JC - Juvenile CHINS: Cases where a petition is filed to determine if a child is in need of services.
9. JD - Juvenile Delinquency: Cases in which a child is alleged to be a delinquent.
10. JS - Juvenile Status: Cases in which a child is charged with committing an offense which would not be a crime if committed by an adult. Some examples include curfew violations and underage alcohol purchase or consumption.
11. JP - Juvenile Paternity: This category reflects paternity actions filed by any of the parties specified by statute, including the prosecutor. IC 31-14-4-1 specifies who may file paternity actions.
12. JT - Termination of Parental Rights: This category reflects all proceedings for termination of parental rights.
13. JM - Juvenile Miscellaneous: This category is intended to include those juvenile matters which are not specifically listed in the previous categories. An example in this area would be the approval by the court of an informal adjustment.

### ***Civil Case Types***

14. CP - Civil Plenary: Basic civil cases not otherwise specifically included as separate categories. Generally, this category covers cases founded in contract, actions dealing with real and personal property, as well as actions seeking equitable or injunctive relief.
15. CT - Civil Tort: Cases founded in tort and filed on the regular civil docket of the court are included in this category. Small claims, which also could be founded in tort, are included in a separate category.
16. SC - Small Claims: This category reflects the civil small claims filed on the small claims docket of Circuit, Superior, or County courts, as well as civil cases filed in Marion Small Claims Court.
17. DR - Domestic Relations: Actions reflecting the dissolution of marriage.
18. RS - Reciprocal Support: Actions for reciprocal enforcement of child support (URES/UIFA) are counted in this category.
19. MH - Mental Health: Proceedings which involve mental health commitments which may include temporary commitments, an extension of temporary commitment, regular commitment, or termination of a commitment.

20. AD - Adoption: Petitions for adoption are filed under this category.
21. AH - Adoption History: All petitions seeking release of adoption records under IC 31-3-4-22 are filed in this category.
22. ES/EU - Estates: This category includes both supervised (ES) and unsupervised (EU) probate of estates. Claims against the estate which are transferred for trial are listed as “civil” matters.
23. GU - Guardianship: Guardianship matters are filed under this category.
24. TR - Trusts: As with guardianships, this category reflects trust matters before the court.
25. PO - Protective Order: New petitions for protective orders which are not part of an ongoing process (such as a marriage dissolution) are filed in this category.
26. MI - Civil Miscellaneous: Routine civil matters which are not easily categorized in other areas, or which are not part of any other pending litigation may be included in this category. Examples of cases in this category are petitions for name change, appointment of appraisers, marriage waivers, and tax warrants.

The Quarterly Case Status Reports also include summary dispositional information. A brief description of the disposition categories is as follows:

1. Jury Trial: Cases which have been decided by a jury or have gone to the jury. This type of disposition is limited to cases where the jury is seated and evidence is received.
2. Bench Trial: Cases which are disposed of by the court after a trial in which a witness is sworn. Cases disposed of in 1998 which involved evidence submitted through affidavits, and other final court decisions which did not involve an actual trial were reported in this category but will be reported in the new category of Bench Disposition beginning as an advisory category in 1999 and a required category in 2000.
3. Dismissed: Cases which are dismissed either by the court on its own motion (T.R.41(E)), upon the motion of a party, or upon an agreed entry as a result of settlement between the parties.
4. Default: Applicable only in civil cases where a default judgment is entered by the court.
5. Guilty Plea/Admission: Dispositions in which the defendant pleads guilty to an offense or admits to the commission of an infraction or ordinance violation. Infraction and ordinance violation cases are only reflected in this disposition category if the case actually comes before the court for decision.
6. Violations Bureau: This disposition category may reflect misdemeanors, infractions, or ordinance violations which have been filed in the court but are handled through a violations bureau. Cases counted here include ones where a defendant makes an admission, pleads guilty, or pays a fine through the bureau, through the clerk, or through the mail.

7. Closed: Routine closing of an estate or adoption proceeding, as well as the routine termination of a trust or guardianship would be counted in this disposition type.
8. FTA/FTP: Ordinance or Infraction cases in which the defendant fails to appear or fails to pay. Once counted in this category, the case is not recounted even if the defendant later appears, pays, or proceeds to a full trial.
9. Other: Any case disposition which is not otherwise accounted for in the preceding categories may be included here. One example of a case resolved in this category would be the death of the defendant.